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S.C.R. NO. 29

FEB 2 3 2015

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO AMEND ITS POLICIES TO REQUIRE HEALTH EDUCATION IN PUBLIC MIDDLE SCHOOLS AND CLARIFY SEXUAL HEALTH EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS AND ENCOURAGING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO RESCIND A BAN ON CONDOM DISTRIBUTION FOR ALL PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS.

WHEREAS, the mission of the Board of Education is to promote excellence and equity in Hawaii's public schools and enable all students to meet their own unique and varied potentials; and

WHEREAS, section 321-11.1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, requires state-funded sexuality health education to be medically accurate and age appropriate and include education on abstinence, contraception, and methods of disease and pregnancy prevention; and

WHEREAS, Hawaii's teen pregnancy rate is tenth highest among the states; and

WHEREAS, teen childbearing costs Hawaii taxpayers \$32,000,000 per year, 71 percent of which are state and local costs; and

WHEREAS, Hawaii has historically high rates of teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted disease, such as chlamydia; and

WHEREAS, Hawaii's high school students report the lowest percentage of condom use of any state in the nation; and

WHEREAS, the Hawaii Adolescent Reproductive Health Survey (2012), a survey on community attitudes toward sexual health education in Hawaii, concluded that 97 percent of survey participants said that it was important or very important to

have sexual health education as part of the school curriculum; and

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WHEREAS, education is the key to reducing the number of cases of sexually transmitted disease and the number of teen pregnancies and to building stronger families and a healthier future for Hawaii; and

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WHEREAS, it is the intent of this body to ensure that the youth of Hawaii have the skills and tools necessary to make healthy and responsible decisions with regard to their sexual and reproductive health, through programs in the public school system or through other means; now, therefore,

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BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015, the House of Representatives concurring, that the Board of Education is encouraged to adopt Policy 102.9 to require health education for middle school students and Policy 103.5 to clarify sexual health education requirements, including that parents can opt their children out of sexual health programs; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education and the Department of Education are encouraged to rescind proposed Policy 103.8, which bans condom distribution on school campuses and at school events and activities; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of Education and Superintendent of Education.

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OFFERED BY:

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